

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed February 12, 2007. Claims 1-17 are pending and rejected in this Application. Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 7. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case in view of the following remarks.

Section 112 Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claims 5, 11, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the term “publisher assertion keyed reference” is ambiguous and is not clearly defined in the Specification. *See Office Action*, Page 2. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons stated below.

The test for indefiniteness under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is whether “those skilled in the art would understand what is claimed when the claim is read in light of the specification.” *See* M.P.E.P. §2173.02 (citing *Orthokinetics, Inc. v. Safety Travel Chairs, Inc.*, 806 F.2d 1565, 1576 (Fed. Cir. 1986)). Applicants respectfully submit that one possessing the ordinary level of skill in the art would know what is meant by “publisher assertion keyed reference.” In addition, the Specification provides further context for the term “publisher assertion keyed reference.” For example, on Page 39, lines 27-32, the Specification states:

A Publisher Assertion is an object representing a relationship between two business entities.

The required elements of a Publisher Assertion are its key, the to and from business and user keys, the status, and the relationship. The relationship is specified as a keyed reference, and stored as an auxiliary class to the Publisher Assertion entry.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the term “publisher assertion keyed reference” is clearly defined and is not ambiguous and request that the rejections of Claims 5, 11, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

Section 101 Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Although Applicants believe that the claims as originally submitted do in fact recite statutory subject matter, in order to advance prosecution of this Application, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite “generating an index based on the specific attribute types” and Claim 7 to recite “code for generating an index based on the specific attribute types.” Therefore, Applicants submit that Claims 1 and 7 recite patentable subject matter. Claims 2-6 and Claims 8-12 each depend from Claims 1 and 7 respectively and therefore also recite patentable subject matter. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn.

Section 103 Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,834,286 issued to Srinivasan, et al., (“*Srinivasan*”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0002955 issued to Gadbois (“*Gadbois*”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons stated below.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for use in a Web Services system that includes providing a Web Services Directory having object classes and attributes. Attributes of a specific type which correspond to a specific object class are defined. An index based on the specific attribute types is generated.

The Office Action rejects Claim 1 and contends that the limitations of Claim 1 are disclosed by *Srinivasan* and *Gadbois*. However, neither *Srinivasan* nor *Gadbois*, alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest “defining attributes of a specific type which correspond to a specific object class.” The Office Action contends that *Srinivasan* discloses this limitation, but the Office Action is incorrect. *Srinivasan* is directed to representing directory attributes in a relational database system. See *Srinivasan*, Column 4, lines 34-37. However, there is no suggestion that the attribute types correspond to a specific object class. In fact, *Srinivasan* teaches a completely different approach stating: “objects from different object classes may contain the same attribute type.” See *Srinivasan*, Column 10, lines 56-57.

For example, Figure 1 of *Srinivasan* illustrates two different object classes: 1) a “Department” object class; and 2) a “Person” object class. Both the “Department” object class and the “Person” object class of *Srinivasan* include the same attribute type “State,” and therefore *Srinivasan* does not define attributes of a specific type which correspond to a specific object class, as required by Claim 1.

Moreover, even assuming for the sake of argument only that *Srinivasan* discloses this limitation, *Srinivasan* would still fail to teach, disclose, or suggest “generating an index based on the specific attribute types,” as recited in Claim 1. The Office Action relies upon the catalog tables of *Srinivasan* in rejecting this limitation. See *Office Action*, Page 6. As disclosed in *Srinivasan*, the catalog tables are based on *attribute values* and “provide efficient searches for objects having particular attribute values.” See *Srinivasan*, Column 9, lines 1-11. However, *Srinivasan* does not teach, disclose, or suggest generating an index based on the specific *attribute types*, as required by Claim 1. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully contend that neither *Srinivasan* nor *Gadbois*, alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest the limitations of Claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Similar to Claim 1, Claim 7 includes limitations related to “defining attributes of a specific type which correspond to a specific object class” and “generating an index based on the specific attribute types.” For at least those reasons discussed above with regard to Claim 1, Applicants respectfully contend that that neither *Srinivasan* nor *Gadbois*, alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest the limitations of Claim 7. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 2-6 and 8-12 each depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 1 or 7. For at least the reasons above, Applicants respectfully contend that Claims 2-6 and 8-12 are patentably distinguishable from *Srinivasan* and *Gadbois*.

Claim 13 is directed to a method for use in a Web Services system that includes providing a Web Services Directory having a plurality of object classes. The plurality of object classes have a plurality of attributes. A plurality of unique names for each of the plurality of attributes are defined. Each of the plurality of unique names correspond to a respective one of the plurality of object classes. An index is generated based on the plurality of unique names.

The Office Action rejects Claim 13 and contends that the limitations of Claim 13 are disclosed by *Srinivasan* and *Gadbois*. However, neither *Srinivasan* nor *Gadbois*, alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest “defining a plurality of unique names for each of the plurality of attributes, each of the plurality of unique names corresponding to a respective one of the plurality of object classes.” The Office Action contends that *Srinivasan* discloses these limitations, but the Office Action is again incorrect. As described above, *Srinivasan* teaches that different object classes may include the same attribute names by stating: “objects from different object classes may contain the same attribute type.” *See Srinivasan*, Column 10, lines 56-57. Therefore, *Srinivasan* does not teach or suggest defining a plurality of unique names corresponding to a respective one of the plurality of object classes. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully contend that neither *Srinivasan* nor *Gadbois*, alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest the limitations of Claim 13. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 14-17 each depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 13. For at least the reasons above, Applicants respectfully contend that Claims 14-17 are patentably distinguishable from *Srinivasan* and *Gadbois*.

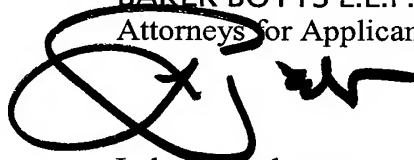
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Although Applicants believe no fees are currently due, should there be a fee discrepancy, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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